



NEW JERSEY
WEEKLY CROP WEATHER

New Jersey
Agricultural Statistics Service

In Cooperation With:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.
Rutgers University

NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS

Allentown
WXL-39 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
Atlantic City
KHB-38 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
New York City
KWO-35 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.
Philadelphia
KIH-28 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.

NEW JERSEY AUCTIONS

Vineland
Phone: (856)691-0721
Sales 10:00AM Daily except Sunday.
Landisville
Phone: (856)697-2273
Direct Sales Daily
Swedesboro
Phone: (856)476-0313
Hightstown
Phone: (609)448-0193
Auction Sales Mon-Wed-Fri-7pm

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Date: May 23, 2005

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania

Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ

8 am EDT Monday, May 23, 2005

Rainfall amounts, tenth of an inch today and again tonight, quarter of an inch Tuesday.

Winds for spraying, east 5 to 10 mph today, northeast 5 to 10 mph tonight, northeast 10 to 20 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent, 70 to 80 today, near 100 tonight, 70 to 80 Tuesday.

Dew points, 45 to 50 through Tuesday.

Drying conditions, fair at best today, generally poor Tuesday.

Frost freeze or dew, little dew tonight and Tuesday night but wetting in showers is possible both nights.

Percent of possible sunshine, 20 today, 10 Tuesday.

There is a 70 percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain free period after application.

Temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs should remain above freezing tonight and Tuesday night due to clouds and showers.

Hay cutting will see poor drying for the next several days with high humidity levels and scattered showers.

Four inch soil temperatures are in the upper 50s north and low 60s central and south. Soil temperatures will hold steady over the next few days.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 30, 2005, through June 5, 2005, is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to total below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8 am May 23, 2005

Temperatures averaged much below normal averaging 56 degrees north, 56 degrees central, and 57 degrees south. Extremes were 77 degrees at Canoe Brook on May 17, 2005, and 37 degrees at Charlotteburg on May 21, 2005.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.44 inches north, 0.78 inches central, and 1.85 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 3.06 inches at Cape May on May 20, 2005, through May 21, 2005.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 74 percent north, 68 percent central, and 65 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 58 degrees north, 58 degrees central, and 59 degrees south.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending 8 am Monday, May 23, 2005

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week						
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
- Inches -										

*Departure from normal.
1/ Growing degree days since March 1, 2005, total and departure from normal or long term average.
2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

Vegetable Harvest Activities Continue

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, May 22, 2005, were 6.1. Topsoil moisture was rated 61% short and 39% adequate. Irrigation water supply was rated 6% short and 94% adequate. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week across most of the state. Temperatures were below normal for the week. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for summer crops. Other activities included field crop planting, fertilizing, herbicide and pesticide spraying, tending greenhouses, and transplanting greenhouse crops. Some cranberry bogs required several nights of irrigation to prevent frost. Planting of soybeans and field corn continued throughout the state. Wheat continued to head. The first cutting of hay continued. In the north, potato plants started to emerge. Summer vegetable seeding continued. There was harvest of leek, chive, arugula, green onions, radishes, cilantro, beets, collards, dill, kale, Boston lettuce, green and red leaf lettuce, Romaine lettuce, escarole, Swiss chard, mint, spinach, and parsley. Harvest of asparagus continued. Harvest of carrots began in the south. Pea and early tomato plants began to flower in the south. In some southern localities, sweet corn was twelve inches high, but in many areas emergence was slow and erratic. Small grains and hay crops were rated in fair to good condition across the state. Pasture condition was rated mostly fair, and was slow to respond due to lack of surface moisture.

- JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 23, 2005
- Arugula & Baby Arugula

- Being harvested in good volume and quality.
- Asparagus

- Good quality being harvested in good volume.
- Beets

- Harvest just began last week but already into good quantity and quality.
- Cilantro & Dill

- Spring planted available in good quantity and good quality.
- Dandelions

- Spring planted available in fair quantity and good quality.
- Escarole/Endive

- Some minor quantities of product started under plastic available but the main harvest should begin later this week.
- Green Onions & Leeks

- A bit of over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Transplanted product should be available by mid to third week of June. Spring planted varieties due in July.
- Lettuces

- Harvesting Red and Green Leaf, Boston, and Romaine in good quantities and quality.
- Parsley

- Over-wintered product is available in light quantity. Spring planted just starting.
- Radishes

- Being harvested in good volume and quality.
- Spinach & Baby Spinach

- Both available in good quantity and quality.

Strawberries - The harvest has begun with light quantities of good quality berries available. The bulk of the crop will be harvested next week with lower volumes to continue through the first week of June. Our Chandler variety berries are picked when ripe and have more red interior color than white since they're physically more mature and ripe. They're grown in raised beds, under black plastic, with a large berry size and excellent taste.

- JERSEY FRESH FORECAST
- Basil

- Should start harvesting in two weeks.
- Blueberries

- Minor quantities of early varieties like Weymouth starting around June 18, 2005. Much more widely planted Duke variety starting 3-4 days later with volume available a week after that.
- Cabbage

- Harvest should begin in early June.
- Collards

- Should begin harvesting later this week.
- Cucumbers

- Should begin harvesting tunnel grown product by early June. Field grown will become available by mid-June.
- Squash

- Should begin harvesting minor quantities of Yellow and Zucchini grown in tunnels by the end of the week. Field grown by about the third week of June.
- Turnips

- Should begin harvesting around the end of May.